GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3062
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN RURAL AREAS
Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni;Pakkirappa Shri S.;Raghavan Shri M. K.;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amendments made and incentives announced by the Medical Council of India (MCI) to encourage the medical and paramedical students/professionals to serve in the rural and remote areas of the country;

(b) the extent to which the aforesaid measures have yielded desired results, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce the six-and-half years MBBS course with one year mandatory rural service for MBBS graduates;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Government to meet shortage of health/ paramedical professionals in rural areas across the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a): The Medical Council of India (MCI) does not regulate Paramedical Education. So far as medical students are concerned, in order to encourage medical graduates to work in remote and difficult areas, the Medical Council of India with the previous approval of Central Government has amended the Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000 to provide −

(i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

(ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

(b): No such data is maintained centrally.

(c) & (d): Yes. Government is contemplating to make rural service mandatory for MBBS graduates.

(e): In order to meet the shortage of health/paramedical professionals in the country, the Central Government has already taken various measures which inter-alia include:

(i) Relaxation in the norms for setting up of a medical college in terms of requirement for land, bed/bed strength, etc. particularly in underserved/hilly/tribal areas.

(ii) Decision to introduce Bachelor of Science (Community Health) course.

(iii) Setting up of new medical colleges in underserved areas in particular.

(iv) Financial support under National Rural Health Mission for engagement of staff on contractual basis.

(v) Financial assistance to strengthen and upgrade the teaching institutions for nurses and paramedical personnel.